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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02742 041446Z

43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-04

AID-20 IO-13 PC-15 RSR-01 /140 W
---------- 000380
R 041256Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6281
INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2742

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, NG
SUBJECT: NIGER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OPPOSE NEW EDUCATIONAL REFORM MEASURES

REF: NIAMEY A-41

SUMMARY. ONGOING STUDENT VERSUS GOVERNMENT CONFLICT WHICH RELATIVELY QUIESCENT DURING VACATION PERIOD HAS FLARED UP AGAIN OVER ISSUE EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AND NOW INCLUDES NUMBER TEACHERS. END SUMMARY.

1. GON'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF LONG BRUITED EDUCATIONAL REFORM MEASURES SPARKED RENEWAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT. MANY TEACHERS HAVE ALSO PUBLICLY CRITICIZED PROPOSALS. TRACTS AND SIGNED LETTERS HAVE APPEARED IN MAIN URBAN CENTERS OPPOSING REFORMS. SOME TRACTS ALSO REPEAT FAMILIAR ACCUSATION AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF NEPOTISM, DISHONESTY, CORRUPTION, MAL-ADMINISTRATION, ETC. GIST OF STUDENTS' COMPLAINTS IS THAT REFORMS ARE OF WRONG TYPE AND LARGELY AIMED AT PUNISHING STUDENTS BY DOING AWAY WITH BOARDING FACILITIES. STUDENTS FURTHER CHARGE THAT CHILDREN OF PRESIDENT AND MINISTERS ARE ALREADY SENT ABROAD TO STUDY AND THAT ABOLITION OF BOARDING PRIVILEGES WILL PERPETUATE SYSTEM WHEREBY ONLY CHILDREN OF RICH CAN AFFORD EDUCATION. TEACHERS CHARACTERIZE
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RECENT ASSIGNMENT OF LEFTIST TEACHERS TO ISOLATED POSTS AS

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"POLITICAL REPRESSION" UNDER GUISE OF NATIONAL NEED. THEY
ESPECIALLY DISTURBED ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AS INEQUALITIES
IN SYSTEM IN WHICH CERTAIN NIGERIENS GIVEN STATUS AS "COOPERANTS"
AND GIVEN HIGH SALARIES (PAID BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT) AND MOST
DESIRABLE TEACHING POSTS ALTHOUGH THEY ALLEGEDLY NO MORE QUALIFIED
THAN TEACHERS WORKING DIRECTLY FOR GON. THEY ALSO CONDEMN
DECISION KEEP FRENCHMAN HENRI TRANCHART AS TECHNICAL ADVISOR
TO MINED EVEN THOUGH MINISTER ALLEGEDLY PROMISED GET RID OF HIM.

2. GON COUNTERED BY ORGANIZING LARGE PUBLIC RALLY EVENING
AUG 30 AT NIAMEY STADIUM WHICH ALL CIVIL SERVANTS FORCED ATTEND.
PRESIDENT DIORI, PRESIDENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BOUBOU HAMA AND
MINISTER EDUCATION DAN DICKO DEFENDED EDUCATIONAL REFORM AND
ATTACKED STUDENT AND TEACHER OPPONENTS. PRESIDENT AND MINED
SPOKE ON MAIN POINTS REFORM: SUSPENSION BOARDING SYSTEM AT
NATIONAL LYCEE (STUDENTS TO BE GIVEN 27,000 CFA PER SCHOLASTIC
YEAR TO FEED, CLOTHE AND LODGE SELVES); SUSPENSION OF EXAMINATION
FOR ENTRANCE INTO SECOND CYCLE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL; INTRODUCTION
OF TECHNICAL AND MANUAL SUBJECTS AT LOWER LEVEL IN EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM; AND REORGANIZATION OF PEDAGOGIC CENTER. PRESIDENT DIORI
CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH GIVEN IN DJERMA VERNACULAR WITH WARNING
THAT PERPETRATORS OF TRACTS WERE CONSIDERED TERRORISTS AND
HENCEFORTH WOULD BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE AS SUCH. ON FOLLOWING
DAY MINED LODGED FORMAL CHARGE OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER
AGAINST TEACHERS WHO SIGNED PUBLIC LETTER AND MININTERIOR
OFFICIALLY DISSOLVED UNION OF NIGERIEN STUDENTS (USN).

3. WITH ADDITION OF TEACHERS TO ONGOING CONFRONTATION WITH
STUDENTS, GON APPARENTLY ASSESSING SITUATION AS MORE SERIOUS.
GOVERNMENT HOWEVER STICKING WITH SAME STRATEGY AS BEFORE IN
DEALING WITH PROBLEM, I.E., BRANDING TEACHERS/STUDENTS AS
PAMPERED TROUBLEMAKERS AND OTHER PEJORATIVE TERMS AND APPEALING
TO MASSES FOR SUPPORT. NUMBER OF MINISTERS DEPARTED FOR
PROVINCES OVER WEEKEND TO HOLD RALLIES FOR THAT PURPOSE. BOUBOU
HAMA SUMMED UP GON ATTITUDE WITH STATEMENT AT NIAMEY RALLY THAT
"YOUTH MUST REALIZE THAT THEY ARE NOT DANGEROUS. A FEW
PROFESSORS AND FEW INTELLECTUALS MEAN ADP021
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PAGE 01 STATE 175265

44
ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 USIA-15 /025 R

DRAFTED BY CU/AF:AEFAIRCHILD:KSW
8/31/73 EXT 23528
APPROVED BY CU/AF:JRWACHOB
---------- 001947
R 041644Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LOME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:OEXC
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM NOMINATIONS
,
REF: COTONOU A-46, AUGUST 10, 1973

1. CU/AF ISSUING GRANTS FOR FIVE PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES NOMINATED REFAIRGRAM. FOLLOWING GUIDELINES A-5625 (JULY 2, 1973) WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING PER DIEM RATES: BARNABO - 45; BROROZE - 40; DOTSE - 40; JONDOH - 40; AND VOVOR - 45.

2. BARNABO AND BOROZE WILL BE PROGRAMMED THROUGH ILAB, PARTICIPATION AFL-CIO CONVENTION MIAMI AND RELATED PROGRAMS WILL BE KEY BUT NOT REPEAT NOT EXCLUSIVE ELEMENT BARNABO'S PROGRAM. ANY ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS POST MAY HAVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

3. APPRECIATE FIRM ETA'S AND FLIGHT INFORMATION ON ALL GRANTEES AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. RUSH

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41
ORIGIN OIC-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 L-03 ACDA-08 DODE-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY IO/OIC:HRATHNER:LJ
8/3L/73 EXT. 2L582
APPROVED BY IO/OIC:GLSHIRK
L/UNA-RJBETTAUER (PHONE)
IO/OIC-GLAZER
---------- 001833
R 041622Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 175247

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: OCON, OTRA
SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW
APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS.

1. SUGGEST MISSION BLOCK TWENTY ROOMS FOR SUBJECT MEETING,
FEBRUARY 17-MARCH 30, 1974. RUSH

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42
ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ISO-00 DOTE-00 /016 R

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Draft Date: 04 SEP 1973
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCLELLAND
Errors: N/A
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINS, NG
To: STATE
Type: TE
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